

health care facilities and the state lacks the power to delve into these cases. The result is a high number of cases falling through the cracks.

My bill would authorize the states and the Medicaid Fraud Control Units to investigate these patient abuse cases in long-term care facilities.

The government should be doing more—much more—to combat fraud and abuse. “White collar” crimes in the health care industry can be stopped. The Senior Citizens Protection Act requires coordination of anti-fraud efforts, keeps our senior citizens safe, returns all recoveries to the federal government, and does not cost the federal government anything!

Our government should be given all the tools necessary to combat fraud in our health care system and give Americans the peace of mind that their moms and dads are well cared for in their retirement years. We need to ferret out providers who rip off the system, and Americans need to rest comfortably at night knowing our family members and friends receive the highest quality health care without the fear of being physically, mentally, or financially abused. I urge my colleagues to support the Senior Citizens Protection Act of 1998 because it will provide health care security to our seniors and restore their trust in the people who care for them from morning until night.

A TRIBUTE TO ROY LAURENCE

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Senior Citizen of my district, Mr. Roy Laurence.

Roy Laurence, of Indian Head Park, Illinois, has displayed tremendous effort and involvement toward the betterment of many of the members of his community. In the opinion of this Congressman, he has indubitably merited the award of Senior Citizen of the Year.

In recent years he has been extremely involved with many not-for-profit organizations within the third district of Illinois. His activities have included the position of commander of the Robert E. Coulter Jr. Post, American Legion.

In 1996 I worked cooperatively with Mr. Laurence in planning and executing the Jubilee Medal awards program for the veterans of the June 4, 1944, Normandy Invasion. This opportunity allowed me to personally witness the heart and soul that Mr. Laurence has given to each and every one of his involvements.

Mr. Laurence has also expressed a sincere concern for the development of the youth of America. He has chaired committees for both the Boys State Program and the Lincoln's Challenge Program. During his chairmanship for the Boys State Program he personally sought outside funding in order that as many young men as possible receive assistance with their educational development. The Lincoln's Challenge Program, a Defense Department initiative designed to keep youth's in school, has made significant strides and continued to inspire educational development, in large part, due to the resilient involvement of Mr. Laurence.

I hope you will join with me in recognizing this devoted senior's hard work and effort toward his community as a whole.

TRIBUTE TO ELVERA BERGEN

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute here in the U.S. House of Representatives to a very special person who will be honored this week in my home district in New Jersey, Sister Elvera (Vera) Bergen.

Sister Bergen has served as the organist for Ebenezer A.M.E. Church in Rahway for over 37 years, performing a true “labor of love” as she has shared her wonderful oratory and musical talents to enrich the spiritual lives of countless members of the community. A member of the First Baptist Church of Cranford, New Jersey and an affiliated member of Ebenezer A.M.E., she is widely admired and appreciated for her devotion to the church and its members. It is fitting that we recognize the accomplishments of this caring and generous woman who has meant so much to us in New Jersey.

I am sure that my colleagues here in Congress join me in congratulating Sister Bergen as she is honored on June 27th, and in wishing her many more productive and fulfilling years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ASA HUTCHINSON

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote #265, agreeing to H. Res. 484, providing for the consideration of H.R. 4103, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for FY 1999, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

HONORING BRYAN BARDIN OF ST. PETERSBURG, FL FOR HIS AWARD WINNING TRIBUTE TO HIS GRANDMOTHER

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, during the observance of “Older Americans Month,” the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's Area Agency on Aging, in cooperation with the Pinellas County School Board, sponsored an essay contest in which young students were asked to write about their favorite older person.

Bryan Bardin, an 11-year-old student at Bay Vista Fundamental School in St. Petersburg, Florida, was awarded first place for his essay honoring his grandmother, Mary Aucremann. This outstanding essay was published in The

St. Petersburg Times and I would like to share it with my colleagues today. Not only do I commend Bryan for his writing, but I also thank his grandmother for being such a great inspiration to her grandson and to each of us who learn of her good works through his words.

BRYAN BARDIN, 11, FIRST PLACE

It's almost as hard to find a Good Samaritan as it is to find a needle in a haystack. By definition, Good Samaritans are ready to give a helping hand, do for others before doing for themselves and set a good example. I think my grandma is a true Good Samaritan. She is always giving of her time and energy, she sets a good example all the time, and she has the biggest and kindest heart of anyone I know.

My grandma Mary Aucremann (Granny) is a very busy person. If you were to graph how she spends her time using a pie chart, you would find there is only a small slice left for herself. She takes Meals on Wheels dinners to people she doesn't even know. She volunteers some of her time at Cedarkirk, our church camp, repairing anything that needs to be fixed. Some of her time goes to her friends who need her to help them with their errands or problems.

A large slice of her time is used helping us, her family, with our projects, problems and periodic puppy demands. For example, we went to Michigan last year, and Granny was able to pet-sit our three hamsters and our dog. She had to take our dog, Zoe, and three times a day and feed her once a day. She also had to feed and clean all of the hamsters. This sounds easy, but it rained 90 percent of the time. Zoe got as dirty as a pig that had rolled in the mud. So Granny had to give her a bath. Even though all this happened, I think she will do it again this year.

I look up to many people, but Mom says Granny is the best role model for anyone. Like the Boy Scout oath, which says, “To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight,” Granny exercises regularly to keep “physically strong.” When she turned 60, she went back to school to learn accounting so she could do the taxes of her children and anyone else who needs help. This keeps her “mentally awake.” Granny is a Christian and lives by the Bible to keep herself “morally straight.” My grandma loves to keep busy by square- and line-dancing. I love her and I love being with her.

Granny has the absolute biggest heart I've ever seen. I think her heart is what holds the family together. She's always there for me and probably everyone else in the world! She loves everything and everyone she comes across. Once, Granny, my mom and I went to Sam's for some food; Granny saw a calendar full of cute puppy pictures and cried over it.

She also comes to all of our school, Scouts and other events. For example, she and my grandfather, Poppo, came to look at my science fair open house, my music concert and my spaghetti dinner. They also came to the Great American Teach-In.

Very recently, Granny had open-heart surgery. We all missed her turkey for Thanksgiving, even though my mom's turkey wasn't that bad. I still don't understand why the doctor had to fix Granny's heart; it seemed fine to me.

I love my Grandma, my true Good Samaritan, good role model, always giving, big-hearted, kind and loving grandmother. Even if her heart was broke one time, it was, is and will always be perfect to me.